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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I do not know what forces have got hold of the District Board of Malabar, whether they are democratic or undemocratic but we have to be guided by the rules in respect of grants to the various district boards. We cannot make an exception in respect of one district board alone."

Metalling of " Tippu Sultan " road in Ponnani taluk

* 692 *Q*.—SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to metal the Old Military road in Ponnani taluk?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" No, Sir."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, the old Military road ' Tippu Sultan ' road as it is popularly known is a very important coastal road. It is of very great use for the transport of fish. The present bus route from Guruvayoor to Ponnani is about 36 miles. If this road is metalled the distance between Guruvayoor and Ponnani will be reduced to 16 miles. In view of the importance of this road will the Government take up metalling of the road immediately? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" If the hon. Member submits definite proposals, I shall ask the District Board to examine it."

Irrigation tank for Pulivalam

* 693 *Q*.—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the villagers of Pulivalam, Musiri taluk, Tiruchirappalli district, made a representation to the President, District Development and Planning Board, Tiruchirappalli, and to the Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Tiruchirappalli South, requesting to construct an irrigation tank in their village;

(*b*) if so, whether any investigation was made and any estimate was prepared;

(*c*) whether the villagers offered to contribute a portion of the cost of the construction; and

(*d*) at what stage the proposal is now pending with the Government?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The villagers of Pulivalam in Musiri taluk made a representation to the Collector of Tiruchirappalli to form a tank for the purpose of irrigation in the village.

" (*b*) An investigation was made and an estimate for Rupees 97,000 was prepared by the Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Tiruchirappalli Division.

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" (*c*) The villagers have offered to pay a contribution of 50 per cent of the cost.

" (*d*) A report has been called for from the Block Development Officer, Musiri."

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR :—" How long it is since the investigation was made? Even though this village is within the Development area why steps are not taken speedily and the work finished?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, investigation itself takes some time and unless it is properly investigated, it would not be right to spend money, particularly money collected by way of people's contribution. Before the actual estimate was known, it was reported that the local people had offered 50 per cent contribution. Now the Block Development Officer has been asked to verify whether 50 per cent of the estimated amount of Rs. 90,000 would be forthcoming from the people. On receipt of a report from him, the work will be taken up."

Erosion on the banks of the Kariyamkot river

* 694 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that both the banks of the Kariyamkot river from Kariyamkot to Perumbatha in Hosdrug sub-taluk, South Kanara, for a distance of about 20 miles are being heavily eroded for the past five years causing destruction to crops and trees;

(*b*) if so, whether the Government have cancelled the land revenue due from the lands thus annexed by the river;

(*c*) whether the Government have any proposals on hand to build up properly these two banks and give protection to the lands in question; and

(*d*) if so, what they are and when the work is likely to be completed?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) No. There have been only slight erosions here and there in the 20 miles stretch referred to and some damage to trees standing on the banks.

" (*b*) No.

" (*c*) & (*d*) No. The question of protection to lands does not arise at present."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Very great damage has been caused and not 'slight damage' as was stated by the Hon. Minister. So will the Government be pleased to make enquiries about this and find out whether the embankment is necessary and if so take necessary steps in this connection?"